

winter
1999

Connecting Projects WILD, WET and Learning Tree in New Hampshire

CELEBRATING MOTHER EARTH

Since first celebrating Earth Day in 1970, spring has been a favorite time for educators and their students to study and celebrate our Mother Earth. April 22—Earth Day—is marked on school calendars around the state for special events. We embrace all the creative ways you find to celebrate this exceptional day—and challenge you to extend your celebrations throughout the spring. Let us make the familiar expression “Earth Day, Every Day” ring true.

Granted, you may still be trudging through snow right now. But you also know that spring fever is right around the corner. Students everywhere will be squirming in their seats, itching to get out and stretch their toes in the new grass, splash through puddles, and hunt for emerging wildlife. Why not capitalize on your students’ desire to move about and go outside to celebrate the environment? Who knows, in the process, your students just might decide that learning can be fun!

This issue of Project WEB is dedicated to the myriad of ways to celebrate our Mother Earth this spring. Inside these pages you will find information about Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Wildlife Week, National Drinking Water Week, and more. You will also find notices of events

planned throughout the state for you and your students to take part in (see the map on page 6).

Finally, you will find suggestions for resources useful to you and your class for planning a celebration at your own school. The important thing is not *how* you celebrate, but that you *do* participate.

Happy Spring!

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CELEBRATING WILDLIFE


National Wildlife Week

National Wildlife Week is one of the oldest celebrations of wildlife in the country. It is sponsored nationally by the National Wildlife Federation, and in New Hampshire by the N.H. Fish and Game Department and N.H. Wildlife Federation. This year, National Wildlife Week will be celebrated from April 18-25, in conjunction with Earth Day on April 22.

This year’s theme is “Nature’s Web: Keeping It Alive.” The theme celebrates areas where great strides have been made to protect our country’s threatened and endangered species, as well as areas where more work needs to be done. The over-arching theme of “Nature’s Web” stresses the interconnections between human and natural communities and will continue through the year 2001.

Teachers celebrating National Wildlife

CELEBRATE WILDLIFE *continued on page 4*


“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

—Anonymous



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New Hampshire
Fish & Game
Department

CELEBRATING WATER!

It's easy for children to believe that our water supply is endless. After all, water is right at our fingertips. It flows from faucets, covers nearly three-quarters of the globe, and even falls from the sky! Yet, water is a precious resource that needs our protection if it is to remain clean and safe for us to drink. National Drinking Water Week (May 3-9, 1999) is aimed at educating people about the importance of protecting our water. It is a perfect time for you and your students to explore the many things you can do to make a difference.

We encourage you and your students to get involved with any of the following events:

Drinking Water Week Festivals

Two water festivals will be held during the week. The first, in Laconia, is open to fourth grade educators and their students and will be held on Tuesday, May 4, at the Laconia Ice Arena. On Thursday, May 6, a festival for fourth and fifth grade educators and their students will take place in Littleton at the Littleton National Guard Armory. Participants at both festivals will be able to view theatrical performances and interactive exhibits, and also

participate in hands-on water activities and a water-tasting contest. For more information, contact Nicole Clegg at 271-4071.

New Hampshire Fourth Grade Water Science Fair


In conjunction with the Laconia Drinking Water Festival, the finals of the New Hampshire Fourth Grade Water Science Fair will be held. Fourth grade classes around the state will hold their own water science fairs during April to determine their school's representative to the state finals. To receive an information packet about the Fourth Grade Water Science Fair, contact Nicole Clegg at 271-4071.

Water Facility Tours and Demonstrations

If you are looking for something closer to home to celebrate Drinking Water Week, contact your local water supplier. Many water departments in the state open their facili-

ties to the public for tours and demonstrations. Many are even willing to bring presentations into your classroom.

Classroom Activities and Experiments

Resources abound for water activities and experiments that your students can conduct right in your own classroom. For example, N.H. Project WET and N.H. Project WILD Aquatic offer educator activity guides through their workshops. In addition, agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, the American Water Works Association, and the Groundwater Foundation make resources materials available for educators. 



Students try their luck with an old well hand pump at the 1998 Drinking Water Week Festival at the PEASE TRADEPORT in Portsmouth.



Visit our **WEBSITE!**

www.state.nh.us/des/proj-wet.htm

CELEBRATING TREES!



ARBOR DAY is one of the oldest celebrations honoring our environment. It was initiated by

the state of Nebraska in 1872 as a means of encouraging tree planting to reduce soil erosion, provide pioneers with fuel and building materials, and create shade on the prairie. New Hampshire's first official Arbor Day was proclaimed on April 29, 1886, by Governor Moody Currier.

Today, every state celebrates Arbor Day, with dates differing according to a state's planting season. Like most New England states, New Hampshire celebrates on the third Friday of April - April 23 this year. Vermont celebrates on the first Friday of May and Maine celebrates for the third full week in May. There is also a National Arbor Day, scheduled this year for April 30.

A customary way to celebrate Arbor Day—planting a tree—carries both symbolic and practical significance. Planting a tree looks to the future rather than some past happen-

ing, as with many holidays. It is also a way of communicating with and acting on behalf of future generations, as well as our own.

There are many ways to celebrate Arbor Day in addition to tree planting. Students can study why trees are important for people, animals, and the ecosystem. They can learn how to plant, grow, and care for trees and forests correctly. They also can raise awareness about the importance of trees to communities, and foster a long-term appreciation for how our natural surroundings improve our quality of life.

For details on celebrating Arbor Day, turn to Project Learning Tree's *Teacher's Guide for Arbor Day & Tree Planting Celebrations in New Hampshire*. This guide offers several activities to help students learn about the structure and function of trees. It has instructions to help teachers and students prepare and implement a tree-planting activity. It also includes a list of possible reasons for planting a tree, a checklist to select and plant a tree that is most appropriate for your site, a list of additional resources for teaching about trees, and a list of forest education contacts in New Hampshire. Call 800-677-1499 to request a copy.

Forest Conservation Week

During the late 1800's, as nationwide interest in forest conservation and protection increased, several U.S. Presidents proclaimed "American Forest Week" around the time of Arbor Day. Since then, all states have passed laws and resolutions providing for the annual observance of a day devoted to tree planting and a week for forest conservation awareness. This year New Hampshire will celebrate Forest Conservation Week from May 2-8. ♻️

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S STATE TREE

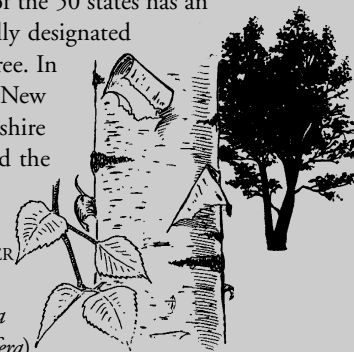


Each of the 50 states has an officially designated state tree. In 1947, New

Hampshire selected the

WHITE BIRCH, or PAPER BIRCH, (*Betula papyrifera*)

as its official tree. The paper birch grows in open, sunny areas, particularly those where a forest has been cleared by timber harvesting or by forest fires. The paper birch is common in many areas of the state.



Activities Related to Articles in This Issue

Project WILD suggests:

The Power of A Song allows students to listen to popular songs and analyze their lyrics for environmental messages and attitudes.

In *Wildlife In National Symbols*, students research the use of wildlife in national symbols and make posters of their findings.

Cartoons and Bumper Stickers has students identify messages about the environment in cartoons and bumper stickers and discuss the influence of humor in conveying information.

Project WILD Aquatic suggests:

In *Aquatic Times*, students produce a newspaper that features information and issues about aquatic life and habitats.

Whale of a Tail has students build life-size replicas of whales on their school grounds and compare these to their own body size.

Project WET suggests:

In *Water Celebration*, students plan, organize, and conduct a water celebration of their own for other

students in their school or for parents and adults.

Project Learning Tree suggests:

The Closer You Look allows students to investigate the actual structure of a tree and the function of its principal parts.

Tree Factory is a lively activity in which students act out the parts of a tree, from the tiniest roots to the toughest bark.

Week receive activity packets and other materials. Packets contain teacher guides, posters, and information specific to New Hampshire. They are distributed to third, fourth, and fifth grade teachers. If you are interested in receiving a packet and do not get one through your school, contact the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department at 271-3211.

International Migratory Bird Day

International Migratory Bird Day is an annual celebration of spring, of growth, and of seasonal change when longer days and warming temperatures prompt millions of birds to embark to their breeding grounds in North America. It is also about making connections between public and private landowners, researchers, educators, backyard birders, businesses, and conservation groups. Perhaps most importantly, *International Migratory Bird Day* is

about making connections between birders, birds, and the natural world on which we all depend.

Sponsored by the Partners in Flight program, it focuses on stemming the declines of many migratory bird species due to habitat loss throughout their range. The good news is that most bird species are still abundant and we have time to keep them that way.


Celebrate *International Migratory Bird Day* on May 8. Packets for organizers and educators are available from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 1120 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 900, Washington DC 20036.



A quick lesson in archery is just one of the many hands-on activities that you will find at DISCOVER WILD NEW HAMPSHIRE DAY.

Discover Wild New Hampshire Day

Discover Wild New Hampshire Day offers a lively day-long celebration of wildlife on Saturday, May 1 at the N.H. Fish and Game Department's headquarters on Hazen Drive in Concord. It is a family event with plenty of hands-on activities for both children and adults. More than 25 conservation and environmental organizations take part in this special spring celebration. It's an excellent opportunity to learn about New Hampshire's wildlife resources from those who manage and care for them.

What things can you do and learn at *Discover Wild New Hampshire Day*? You can build a bird box, learn to cast a fishing line, try your hand at archery, identify wildlife habitat, take a nature walk, see demonstrations of wildlife carving and fly tying, sample different fish cooked on the spot, make a wildlife mask, and visit a trapper's cabin. You will see falcons, owls, animals with reputations, retriever dogs, and a hatchery truck with brook trout. There are also larger than life critters, such as Barry Brook Trout, Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, and others who mingle with the crowd. For more information contact the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department at 271-3211. 



The RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD is the only hummingbird found in the northeast. Each fall this amazing little bird survives a southern trek to Mexico and Central America, covering well over 1000 miles in flight. This arduous task includes a non-stop flight across the Gulf of Mexico.

WEB SIGHTINGS...

A SHORT-LIST OF WEBSITES FOR YOUR SURFING PLEASURE

i **EELINK's New Address:** Students can do research, and teachers can get activity ideas as well as conference and professional development information at www.eelink.net.

i **EARTH DAY EVERY DAY:** Earth day history, events and activities, as well as environmentally friendly products, resources, and businesses can be located at www.earthday.org. The *For Educator's* page leads users to EE resources on the Internet.

i **EE FOR KIDS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS:** On the EPA's Environmental Education page, at www.epa.gov/environed, everyone can find pertinent information - from kids' clubs to high school activities to free curricula.

i **CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** has a new library resource now housed at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene. Access the catalog and resources at www.cce-ane.org.

i **U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY:** Ever wonder how much water it takes to grow a head of lettuce or even to "grow a hamburger?" Care to find out what pH is, how much water is used to produce electricity, or how much water is stored in glaciers? Answers to these and other questions are at www.water.usgs.gov/droplet.

i **WATER SHARE:** Teacher lesson plans are available on the newest "virtual" water conservation web site. In addition, students can surf the site to learn the basics of water conservation in nature, urban, or agricultural settings. Sign on to www.watershare.usbr.gov.

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM TREES

It's important to have roots.

In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.

Don't pine away over old flames.

If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.

Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.

Sometimes, you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.

If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.

Grow where you are planted.

It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.

Avoid people who would like to cut you down.

Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.

If the party gets boring, just pick up and leaf.

As you approach the autumn of your life, you can't hide your true colors.

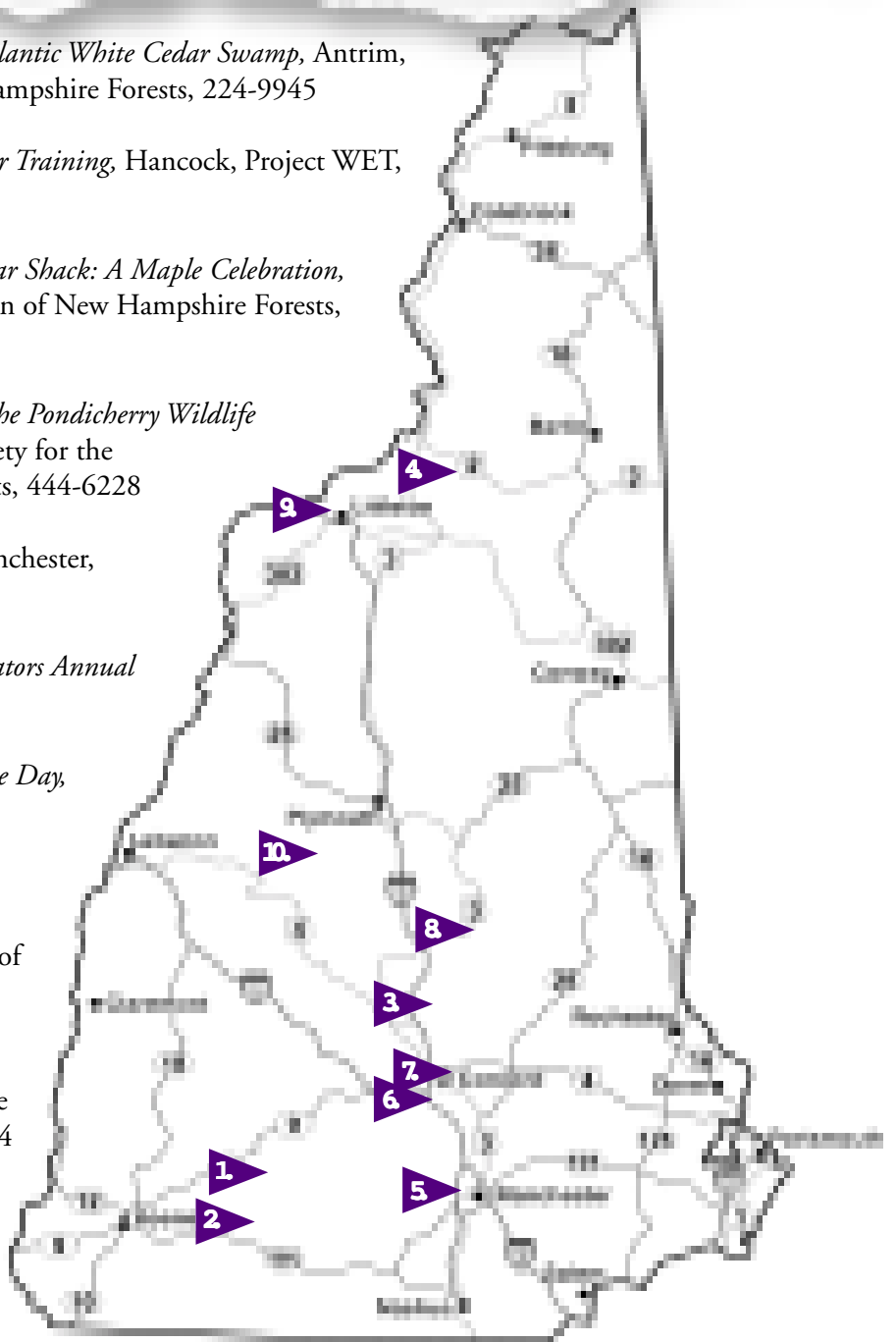
It's more important to be honest than to be poplar.

COPIED FROM THE NEW JERSEY PLT SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDE.



Calendar of Events

- 1** February 27, *Tour of Lovern's Mill Atlantic White Cedar Swamp*, Antrim, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 224-9945
- 2** March 12-13, *Project WET Facilitator Training*, Hancock, Project WET, 271-4071
- 3** March 13, *From the Forest to the Sugar Shack: A Maple Celebration*, Canterbury, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 224-9945
- 4** March 24 & 27, *Natural History of the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge and Field Trip*, Jefferson, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 444-6228
- 5** April 24, *Earth Day Celebration*, Manchester, Amoskeag Fishways, 626-FISH
- 6** April 28, *N.H. Environmental Educators Annual Meeting*, Concord, 226-0160
- 7** May 1, *Discover Wild New Hampshire Day*, Concord, N.H. Fish and Game Department, 271-3211
- 8** May 4, *N.H. Drinking Water Week Festival*, Laconia, N.H. Department of Environmental Services, 271-4071
- 9** May 6, *N.H. Drinking Water Week Festival*, Littleton, UNH Cooperative Extension-Grafton County, 787-6944
- 10** May 29, *Naturally Newfound*, Hebron, Audubon Society of N.H. and Newfound Lake Region Association, 744-8689



ON THE H.O.M.E. FRONT

Celebrating School Grounds!

May 7, 1999 is International School Grounds Day (ISGD), a day to celebrate the schoolyard as an exciting, alternative classroom and rich educational resource. The ISGD celebration originated with schoolyard organizations in Europe, then spread throughout North America as creative and beneficial school grounds projects have sprung up. This is a terrific way to kick-off a long-term habitat enhancement project on your school grounds. Once you and your students have decided how you'll celebrate ISGD, you can register your event with the National Wildlife Federation, (www.nwf.org/habitats/isgd/) or Green Brick Road (www.gbr.org) and join this growing network. For more information, resources, and activity ideas, contact Marilyn Wyzga at 603-271-3211.

FEATURE SCHOOL

MCDONOUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MANCHESTER

Schoolyard projects get started in many ways. At the McDonough School in Manchester, a PTA beautification plan lit the spark. Several enthusiastic parents secured a seed grant to plant a wildlife garden. This caught our attention, and we invited McDonough teachers to take part in "HOME in the City," an

SCHOOLYARD HABITATS UPDATE

urban schoolyards program funded by Project WILD.

McDonough students now get a window on wildlife with the garden right outside their cafeteria. Grassy lawn was transformed with bird and butterfly plants and feeders. Since most of the school's students live in a densely settled area without open soil or plants, this is a rare opportunity.

PTA members Kathy Staub, Bar Weeks, and Ute Ball researched the plants, then shared their findings with the students. One hundred kindergartners planted 100 sunflowers. Eight elementary classes propagated plants

from seed. Fifth graders created a field guide to butterflies. Parents donated additional plants and a load of manure, loaned garden tools, and



This wheelchair accessible bed will hold a senses garden.

built bird feeders. Classes signed-up to keep the feeders filled. And the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department assisted with plantings and wood chips for the garden, as well as site plans.

Recent additions to the project include a compost bin to recycle garden waste, and a special raised bed for wheelchair access. A senses garden is planned for the raised bed. Both structures were built by



Parent, Kathy Staub, helps two students plant lupine they raised from seed.

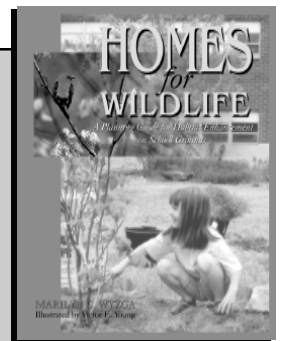
the Manchester School of Technology.

The parent team has maintained careful records of the plants, their names, sources and locations in a garden journal. On planting day, the Union Leader was on hand to photograph and prepare a story about the project. Both excellent records and community visibility are essential to the success of a schoolyard project.

Since pavement and grass dominate this urban schoolyard, the site has great potential for further development. So this past fall, nine teachers and one parent participated in the Project HOME "WILD in the City" workshops. Now they are exploring ways to use the existing wildlife garden, and broaden the project to integrate more subject areas and the entire schoolgrounds. This garden could grow well beyond its borders to encompass the whole community.

ITS HERE!

The newly revised *Homes for Wildlife* curriculum guide is here—with a full-color cover, new artwork and an updated bibliography. Copies are available from Fish and Game's Concord office and the Acorn Naturalists catalogue for \$18.95 plus shipping and handling. It is included with teacher workshops. To schedule a workshop, contact Marilyn Wyzga at 603/271-3211.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Education is More Effective

"Students learn more effectively within an environment-based context than within a traditional educational framework," asserts a new, ground-breaking research report by the State Education and Environmental Roundtable (SEER). The report also finds that students involved in environmental programs are more enthusiastic, self-motivated learners.

The report, entitled "Closing the Achievement Gap: Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning," presents the results of a three-year study of 40 schools across the United States that are using the environment as an integrating context for their educational practices. If interested in reviewing the Executive Summary or requesting the full report, visit www.seer.org.

Grants for Action Projects

Looking for funding for a special action-oriented project? Consider the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. Its purpose is to

increase engagement and participation in grassroots environmental initiatives and to build and connect healthy, sustainable communities in New England. The fund provides grants three times a year, ranging in size from \$500 to \$2,500. For more information, write to NEGEF, P.O. Box 1057, Montpelier VT 05601, call 802-222-4622, or visit their web site at www.grassrootsfund.org.

EPA Change of Address:

EPA, Region 1, New England
1 Congress Street Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023
Customer Call Center:
1-617-918-1111 or toll free within
New England: 1-888-372-7341
www.epa.gov/region1

Free Classroom Supplies

Could you use free supplies for your classroom? Have you ever visited Donation Depot in Hooksett? This is a great resource that collects good used materials from businesses and makes them available to teachers and non-profits. Donation Depot is open just for teachers from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of the month. For details on the Depot's policies, contact Mark Toussaint at

224-5388 or visit their web site at www.nhc.edu/admin/donate/donate.htm.

PLT and the National Science Standards

All of PLT's elementary and secondary activities are now correlated to the national science standards. Check it out on the web at www.plt.org.

The Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest

Here is an opportunity for young artists to create a portfolio that includes an illustration of their state fish and a written composition on its behavior, habitat or efforts to conserve it. Entries are due March 31, 1999. For more information, visit the following website at www.statefishart.com or call toll free at 1-877-FISH ART.

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www.State.nh.us/des/proj-wet.htm
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